

The CPSA has worked hard to ensure that the voice of the people is heard loud and clear among those wanting to hold public office. Because of the work of the CPSA, political candidates and elected officials have become more sensitive to the needs of the people. During the early 1980's, Dr. Aldridge led the petition to have Detroit Street, located in the inner city of Flint, renamed to Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Dr. Aldridge stated that the renamed Street would serve as "a role model for youngsters in the inner city." The change was approved by City Council in 1987. Dr. Aldridge remained President of the CPSA until 1999, when he had to resign due to illness.

Dr. Aldridge during his life held several leadership roles within the Church community. He served as President of the Wolverine State Congress of Christian Education and Convention Coordinator for the National Baptist Convention for 25 years. He was Vice President and Director General of the National Baptist Congress for 4 years, and he also served on the Board of Directors for the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., and the Sunday School Publishing Board, Nashville, Tennessee. He was also a member of the Todd Philips Children's Home Board of Directors—Detroit, Mott Children's Health Center, Michigan National Bank, Flint Housing Commission Board of Directors, Advisory Board of the Flint Goodwill Industries, Professional Advisory Board Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, Board of Directors Girl Scout Council and of the Boy Scouts of America, and as a Commissioner on the National Holiday for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Board. Dr. Aldridge also held the position of Instructor and Member of the Baptist Ministers Alliance.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Aldridge leaves to cherish and carry on his legacy his beautiful and devoted wife of 54 years, Dr. Mildred Aldridge, his son, Reverend Derek Aldridge, his daughter, Karen Aldridge-Eason, and nine grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in offering condolences to the family of Dr. Avery Aldridge, and in thanking them for sharing Dr. Aldridge with our community.

Mr. Speaker, my message to his congregation and all of our community is as follows.

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble in heart." [Matthew 11:29]

It takes a strong person to be meek, a strong person to be in charge of his passions and emotions.

Reverend Avery Aldridge was such a person.

He was strong in his love of God.
He was strong in his love of the Church.
He was strong in his love of family.
He was strong in his pursuit of justice.
He was strong in his effort to eliminate injustice.

And all this deep strength, he exercised humbly, as an instrument of God's Holy Will.

Because of Dr. Aldridge's strength, anchored in humility and meekness, this community is a better community.

This Church is a stronger representation of the Mystical Body of Christ.

All of us here in this Church are better people because of that strength of faith and action of Doctor Avery Aldridge.

The greatest tribute we can render to Dr. Avery Aldridge is to emulate
his love,
his dedication,

his humility, and
his Christ centered strength.

Dr. Aldridge, as a triumphant member of the Communion of Saints, please ask Almighty God to shower His Blessings upon us that we might use our strength to carry out God's Holy Will.

WARREN HEYER: PROFESSOR,
COMMUNITY ACTIVIST, AND PUBLIC ADVOCATE

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Warren Heyer, one of my district's most persistent and effective community advocates.

As a young man, Heyer served in World War II, where he saw combat in General George S. Patton's 3rd Army and took part in the liberation of a Nazi concentration camp. After witnessing the horror of war and genocide, he became an ardent anti-war activist. And in the mid-1960s, his activism focused on his community.

After Heyer graduated from San Diego State College in 1950, he taught in a local elementary school—where he met his first wife, Roberta Calvert, who passed away in 1996. He continued his education, receiving a Master's degree in librarianship, and worked as a librarian at both San Diego High School and San Diego City College. In 1964, he was a founding faculty member of Mesa College, where he was instrumental in developing numerous important school policies. He was the elected chairman of the Library Department, a position he held until 1979, when he retired. Retirement did not stop his service to the college: he continued to serve as an adjunct librarian, training and assisting new employees and students.

He was also a central figure in the efforts to re-zone his community of Encanto. If it were not for Warren Heyer, the quiet and inviting character of Encanto would have been lost. He served as vice-chairman of the Southeast San Diego Development Committee and went door-to-door to gain support for his efforts, without which, I am convinced, the planning measure would not have passed.

Heyer suffered a stroke in Chichicastenango, Guatemala, where he was building a church on behalf of a humanitarian organization. He died as he lived: putting others before himself and working for the betterment of society.

My deepest condolences go to Heyer's family; his wife Patricia and his three children: Kathryn, Robin, and Andrew.

William Heyer was a model constituent and his legacy will continue to benefit my district for years and years to come.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TRAVIS THOMPSON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the extraordinary

talents of a dedicated young mandolin player from Pueblo, Colorado. Travis Thompson is the national champion of the prestigious Walnut Valley Festival. He provides enjoyment and inspiration to all who are fortunate enough to hear him play.

Travis is only the fifth Coloradan to receive this prestigious title since the addition of the mandolin competition to the festival in 1976. He began playing the instrument at age 11 after meeting his idol, Chris Thile of Nickel Creek, at a music festival. Several years later, Travis made his first of three attempts to reach the finals of the contest. His diligence and persistence have placed Travis on the path to eventually joining the ranks of bluegrass icons such as Alison Krause.

Travis hails from a family of musicians. His father, sister, and mother play the guitar, fiddle, and bass respectively in the performance group Second Wind. Not only does this young man pursue excellence in the entertainment field, but he also runs track and maintains a 3.6 grade-point average at Rye High School.

Mr. Speaker, Travis Thompson's gift motivates other citizens to follow their dreams. His devotion and enthusiasm certainly deserve the recognition of this body of Congress. It is my privilege to pay tribute to Travis for his contributions to the Colorado community.

THINNING ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH TO PROTECT HOMES FROM FOREST FIRES

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, the Senate recently passed a revised version of H.R. 1904, the "Healthy Forests" bill and the administration has made plain its desire that action on this legislation be completed soon.

The bill deals with several other matters, but most attention has been focused on Title I, which deals with forest-thinning projects on federal lands.

I support well-designed thinning projects that are focused where they will do the most good—but I do not think such projects, alone, will be enough.

To illustrate what I have in mind, I want to bring to the attention of our colleagues a story from the Boulder, Colorado Daily Camera.

The story focuses on the efforts of homeowners in Boulder County to protect their homes and the way that their efforts paid off during wildfires. Such "defensible space" measures, based on common sense can be readily adopted by homeowners, and there are many available sources of assistance. For example, in our state the Colorado State Forest Service has a program to help private property owners assess their property for fire and develop a plan to help reduce risks. These and other programs—such as actions by local government to require the use of fire-resistant materials and other steps to reduce fire risks—can go a long way to help prevent and reduce the losses from wildfires. It would also be desirable for the nation's insurance industry to lend its assistance to encourage people whose insured property is in forested areas to take some responsible steps to make their homes more defensible from fire.